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PULPWOOD PRODUCTION IN IDAHO AND MONTANA, 1956

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Idaho and Montana together produced more than 361 thousand cords of pulpwood in 1956--nearly 2½ times the production of 148,080 cords reported for 1954.[1/] Of the total 1956 production, more than 56 percent came from northern Idaho (all Idaho north of the Salmon River) and more than 27 percent came from eastern Montana (all Montana east of the Continental Divide).

A comparison of 1954 and 1956 production, with the percentage change since 1954, is shown in the following tabulation:

Area	Pulpwood production 1954	Pulpwood production 1956	Change from 1954
	Standard cords		Percent
Idaho			
Northern	90,458	203,889	+125
Southern	5,447	23,124	+325
Total	95,905	227,013	+137
Montana			
Western	16,115	35,015	+117
Eastern	36,060	99,326	+175
Total	52,175	134,341	+157

The large volume increase for northern Idaho is largely attributable to the expanded capacities of the two pulpmills that obtain most of their pulpwood from this area. Western Montana's output, principally from Lincoln, Sanders, and Mineral Counties, also went to these mills.

1/ Wikstrom, John H. Pulpwood production in Idaho and Montana, 1954. Intermountain Forest & Range Experiment Station Research Note 21, 2 pp. 1955.

Table 1.--Pulpwood production by species and source areas, Idaho and Montana, 1956

Area	Species								Total all species	Percent of total
	Ponderosa and white pines	Lodgepole pine	Douglas-fir	True firs[1]	Engelmann spruce	Western hemlock	Western larch	Other[2]		
	Standard cords									
IDAHO										
NORTHERN[3] (Counties)										
Bonner	0	0	0	1,432	9,623	8,057	0	1,085	20,197	8.9
Boundary	0	0	0	160	29,810	20,703	0	672	51,345	22.6
Clearwater	16,125	0	16,125	53,777	195	0	10,750	10,750	107,722	47.5
Benewah, Kootenai, Shoshone	164	0	225	1,040	598	290	345	99	2,761	1.2
Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce	3,280	0	3,604	10,911	0	0	2,589	1,480	21,864	9.6
Subtotal	19,569	0	19,954	67,320	40,226	29,050	13,684	14,086	203,889	89.8
SOUTHERN	0	23,124	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,124	10.2
Total	19,569	23,124	19,954	67,320	40,226	29,050	13,684	14,086	227,013	100.0
Percent of total	8.6	10.2	8.8	29.7	17.7	12.8	6.0	6.2	100.0	
MONTANA										
WESTERN[4]	0	0	0	0	33,611	1,216	0	188	35,015	26.1
EASTERN	0	99,326	0	0	0	0	0	0	99,326	73.9
Total	0	99,326	0	0	33,611	1,216	0	188	134,341	100.0
Percent of total	.0	73.9	.0	.0	25.0	.9	.0	.2	100.0	

1/ True firs include grand, white, and alpine firs.
2/ Includes western redcedar and cottonwood.
3/ Northern Idaho: north of the Salmon River.
4/ Western Montana: west of the Continental Divide.

Pulpwood produced in southern Idaho and eastern Montana is shipped by rail to mills in the Great Lakes region and, in 1956, totaled 122,450 cords--an increase of 195 percent over that of 1954.

Table 1 shows that northern Idaho produced nearly 90 percent of the State's total output and that the leading pulpwood species, in order, were the true firs, Engelmann spruce, western hemlock, and lodgepole pine. All of the lodgepole pine was produced in southern Idaho. Clearwater County, with more than 47 percent of Idaho's output, led all counties by a wide margin.

Eastern Montana dominated the pulpwood production for Montana with nearly three-quarters of the State's production--all of it from lodgepole pine. Engelmann spruce and western hemlock occupied second and third places, respectively, in species importance.

No firm data are available on the amounts of pulpwood cut from dead trees in the shipments from southern Idaho and eastern Montana to Lake States mills, but all indications are that very little, if any, dead material is included. However, estimates furnished by the two pulp companies operating on wood supplies from northern Idaho and western Montana show a generally high level of utilization of dead material for pulpwood in these areas. Data in the following tabulation are based on these estimates and show for each species the percentage of the total production that came from dead trees.

Species	Northern Idaho		Western Montana	
	Total production	From dead trees	Total production	From dead trees
	Thousands of cords	Percent	Thousands of cords	Percent
Ponderosa and white pines	19.6	94	0	0
Douglas-fir	20.0	100	0	0
True firs	67.3	5	0	0
Engelmann spruce	40.2	99	33.6	100
Western hemlock	29.0	0	1.2	0
Western larch	13.7	100	0	0
Other	14.1	9	.2	0
All species	203.9	47	35.0	96

The data of this note are based upon reports furnished by all pulp companies operating in and near Idaho and Montana plus reports of pulpwood carloadings for the four railroads that transport pulpwood out of the two States.